JOURNAL ON A WHALING TRIP

HARRIET PEIRCE

BARK EMERALD

JULY 20, 1857
TO
OCTOBER 23, 1857


THE KENDALL WHALING MUSEUM
Sharon, Massachusetts USA

Journal of a Whaling Trip
Kept by

Harriet Peirce
daughter of Abraham W. Peirce
and Harriet Dunlap Cook Peirce
and sister of Mrs. N. B.
Emerson.

Bark Emerald
July 20, 1857
to Oct 23, 1857

bound for the Sandwich Islands

Journal on board Bark Emerald July 1852.

July 20th obs. in 40°10.

This day began with pleasant ~~[illegible]~~ weather and ended with the same. We have had fresh winds from the south and the ship has gone along nicely. The baby is so full of mischief it takes one all the time to look after her she scatters her things all over the cabin and I do not think she will have many by the time she gets to the Sandwich Islands. I will not write any more tonight as it is getting late

July 21st.

It has been pleasant today with the wind from south to southwest Long 63°39'.

July 22d.

It has been quite rough and I have lain in my bed almost all day and so has mother. The wind has been from the southwest.

Long. 59°42.

Journal on board Bark Emerald July 1857.

July 23.d 1857.

It has been pleasant today with the wind from west to southwest and much smoother than yesterday. Long. 37.. 34.

Friday July 24.th.

We have had strong winds from east north east and rugged, I was a little seasick this forenoon but have not been since I can think of nothing more at present. Latt. 37.. 40.

Saturday July 25.th.

It has been quite rugged with the wind from the east the ship steering south south east.

Sunday 26.th of July.

It has been smooth and pleasant today without much wind from anywhere. It has been so near calm that the ship has not made much headway. My Father got a lunar observation this afternoon. Long. 37 4 .. 16.

Towards the Western Islands August 1857

Saturday August 8th.

It has been pleasant with the wind from west to northwest. There have been three sails in sight. We sighted the Island of Fayal at sunset about thirty miles ahead

Sunday August 9th.

We have had pleasant weather with the wind from southwest. We have been in sight of Fayal all day. There have been some sails in sight.

Monday August 10th.

We went on shore this morning and staid all day. When we first got on shore we went to the Hotel staid there awhile and then we walked out up to the market and convent there we purchased some sugar plums and marmalade we then went back to the Hotel waited for dinner eat it and then waited to go to the ship until

Journal on board Bark Emerald August 1855
the boat came for us and then came on board
Mother bought a collar of lace and straw and
some baskets at the Hotel There were a lot of
Man of wars men at dinner There were several
captains on shore beside father captain Little
of the Hillman capt. Lakeman of the Cortes
capt. Finds of the Metacom and one other captain
I will write no more tonight
Tuesday August 11th
We have had light variable
winds with pleasant weather
Wednesday August 12th
The wind has been from
the south and very light. We have been in sight
of Terceira all day and father expects to go
on shore tomorrow Captain Little of the Hillman
came on board this afternoon and has just gone
back to his ship There were four other Islands
in sight besides Terceira Pico St. George
Graciosa and St Michael The latter was
about sixty miles off The baby has not been
well today we think she has eaten too much fruit.

Among the Western Islands August 1851.

Thursday August 13th

We have had light winds from the southward and pleasant weather Father has been on shore and bought some potatoes onions cabbages fish apples figs and plums The baby is a little better than she was yesterday We have got one hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes in all Ten bushels came from Fayal

Friday August 14th.

It has been pleasant with the wind from the south There has been one sail in sight The baby is about the same and cross enough We had fish chowder for dinner.

Saturday August 15th.

We have had light airs and calms with pleasant weather The baby is better than she has been We have had the mainsail down and had it altered I worked the longitude this evening without making any mistake We had fish chowder for dinner This will do for tonight.

Journal on board Bark Emerald August 1857.

Sunday August 16th 1857.

It was calm this forenoon This afternoon we have had moderate winds from northeast Mr. Tripp caught a dolphin this morning. There has been one sail in sight

Monday August 17th.

We have had fresh winds from east to southeast and squally weather We had dolphin for dinner

Tuesday August 18th.

We have had light winds from the southeast with pleasant weather There has been two sails in sight one is a ship father think it is the Cor The other was a brig

Wednesday August 19th.

It has been pleasant with light winds from the eastward There has been one sail in sight Two boats went off this morning to practice

Thursday August 20th.

We have had pleasant weather with the wind from southeast to northeast Two of the boats went off again this father and

Towards the Cape de Veride Islands August 1847

Sunday August 30th

We have left Bravo. Father got the baby a goat and kid and some grass to feed it on I sent a letter to grandmother. We saw some porpises today.

Monday August 31st

The wind has been from northeast to southeast with pleasant weather We had chickens for dinner

Tuesday September 1st

It has been hot pleasant and calm today We have had down the Main Topsail mending it The baby is badly broke out with the heat We had chicken stew for dinner

Wednesday September 2d

We have had light winds from almost all points of the compass We had a rain squall this forenoon There has been two barks in sight

Journal on board Bark Emerald September 1857.

Thursday September 3d.

We have had light winds and variable There has been two sails in sight one of the barks we saw yesterday and another vessel father went over board the bark It was bound to Rio Geneiro

Friday September 4th

We have had the wind from southwest to south with rain squall There has been two sails in sight. One of the hens laid an egg

Saturday September 5th

We have had the wind from south to southwest There has been six sails in sight from masthead Latt. 09.. 23 Long. 21.. 33.—

Sunday September 6th

We have had moderate winds from west south west We are having a smart rain squall which begun before supper There is a large ship in sight almost astern of us which was in sight all day yesterday and today Latt. 08.. 08 North. Long. 20.. 41.. 30

Towards the Equator September 1857

Monday September 7th

We have had moderate winds all day Father went on board the ship that has been in sight these three days She was a merchantman 22 days from Liverpool named the Forest queen and was loaded with coal bound to the cape of Good Hope My Father had two english papers given him the Globe and Sun dated the 12th of August

Tuesday September 8th

We have had Moderate winds from southwest There has been three sails in sight We had roasted chickens for dinner Latt. 5° 4'

Wednesday September 9th

We have had fresh winds from south west to south south west and Annually Six years ago today we sailed in the Kentusoff There has been none sails in sight

Thursday September 10th

We have had strong winds from south south west There has been nine sails in sight Latt. 3° 45' Long 16° 00' 45"

Journal on board Bark Emerald September 185?

Friday Sept. 11th

We have had fresh wind from the south There has been a vessel we supposed it was a man of war We hoisted our colours and she showed her they were french The steward killed the turkey this afternoon Latt. 2..5-2 Long. 175?

Saturday Sept. 12th

We have had the wind from the south We had roast turkey for dinner Frank did some washing today and as father was taking down the clothes from off the house one of the babys aprons fell overboad they lowered a boat and in doing so stove it against one of the cranes but they did not get the apron Latt. 1.41 Long 17.42

Sunday Sept. 13th

We have had fresh wind from southeast to south. There has been three sails in sight. One of them we have gained on a good deal. We expect to cross the line to night Latt. 34 miles north Long. 21..44

Towards the Indian Ocean September 185?

Monday Sept. 14th

"We have had strong trades from southeast to south south east and rugged" There has been three sails in sight we passed the bark we saw yesterday she was quite near to us Father tried to read her name he called it the George Arkle of liverpool Latt. 1.17 South Long 23.41

"Tuesday Sept. 15th

"We have had strong trades from southeast to south south east and rugged" They have had the Fore Topsail Spanker down and cut them over Latt. 3.05

"Wednesday Sept. 16th

"We have had strong trades from southeast by south Latt. 4.48 Long. 25.01

"Thursday Sept. 17th

"We have had strong trades from south east by south and rugged" The steward has killed some chickens

Latt. 6.47

Long 25.52

Journal on board Bark Emerald September 185?

Friday Sept. 18th 185?

We have had strong trades from S.E. by S. rather more moderate the latter part of the day My chicken was such a miserable thing father threw it overboard this afternoon Obs. 8.33 Long 26.30

Saturday Sept. 19th

We have had strong trades from S.E. by E. Latt. 10.29. Long. 27.02.

Sunday Sept. 20th

We have had strong trades from S.E. by E Latt 12.29 Long 27.16

Monday Sept 21st

We have had the wind about as usual Latt 14.47 Long 28.02

Tuesday Sept. 22d

The wind has been about the same as usual The baby is two years old today and knows almost all her letters They have raised sports twice today but they did not amount to any thing. Latt 17.07 Long 28.13

Towards the Indian Ocean October 185
backs in company with the whale Latt. 37.13 S. Long 2.48 W.
Friday Oct 16th.

We have had strong winds from N. W.
to W. and rugged Latt 37.08 S. Long 1.10 West.
Saturday Oct 17th.

We have had strong winds from
S. W. There were some finbacks in sight this
morning Latt. 36.40 S Long 1.59 East.
Sunday Oct 18th.

We have had moderate winds from
South. Latt. 36.22 No Long.
Monday Oct. 19th.

We have had moderate winds from
N. W.
Latt. 36.22. No Long.
Tuesday Oct. 20th.

The wind has been from the
N. W and strong There has been one sail in
sight Latt. 36.58 Long 2.25 East.
Wednesday Oct. 21st.

We have had the wind from
N. W. Father has moved the swinging bed from the starboard
side to the larboard side of the Stateroom Mother sarah

Journal on board Bark Emerald October 185
Sd. I have been weighed Mother's weight was 118 poun
Sarah's 34 and mine 102 Latt. 36.52. No Long.
Thursday Oct. 22d.

We have had strong gales from
W. to S. W. and rugged. The cooper has made a
goatskin drum and the men have been marchi
round the tryworks this evening. They had besid
the drum a flag with an iron on one side and
a sperm whale on the other and some scrubbin
brushes and other things There has been two pig
killed

Lattitude 36.38 S.
Longitude 15.30.E.

Friday Oct. 23d.

We have had moderate winds fro
south west with a very high sea the ship has b
rolling badly I was seasick enough to vomit thi
forenoon We had codfish and potatoes for dinn
and pig liver for supper. The ship rolled one o
the cooks coppers off of the stove this morning
Father made the Lattitude 36.44 but he w
not sure that it was correct No Longitude



